Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* What was the reason for assigning these acquired lands to nearly 20 persons or 20 families ? I understand that the lands were acquired for those who were evicted from Venduruthy.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There was no idea of evicting persons who were already on the spot to make room for other persons. When about 24 acres were acquired it was decided that those who were there must be allowed to remain there. Those persons who were already living there were allowed to remain there and the others were treated as new-comers to whom small house sites were to be given. Therefore Government decided that persons who were there must be allowed to remain there with the persons who were coming in.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* With regard to these persons mentioned here, may I know whether compensations are being paid for their houses ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* No.

79. Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether any of the trees on the porambokes and unassigned lands at the colony established at Nettur for evacuees from Venduruthi have been cut down by or under the orders of any Government authorities ;

(*b*) whether the usufructs on such lands is periodically being removed by or under the orders of, any Government authorities;

(*c*) if so, who has been appropriating such trees and usufructs ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*DiwanPeishkar*) :

(*a*) No.

(*b*) The trees on the lands are entrusted to the adjacent assignees who pay the value of the usufructs.

(*c*) Does not arise in view of answer to (b).

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* Have all such trees been assigned to the holders of the adjoining lands ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

FERRY BOAT—CAPSIZING OF

80. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*) : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the report of the Bolghatty ferry boat disaster published on page 2 of the "Malabar Mail" on 25th October 1944 is a fact ;

(*b*) if so, the number of casualities in connection with the said incident;

(*c*) whether the Government is taking any steps to avoid such disasters in future?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*) :

(*a*) It is a fact that a boat accident has taken place.

(*b*) One.

(*c*) Yes.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether the Government will be pleased to supply an additional boat to the ferry at least in the morning hours and evening hours on school working days ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There were actually two boats. The contractor was running the two boats, one of them was requisitioned for Military purpose and therefore there is only one boat.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam) :* May I know what is the capacity of the boat, *i.e.*, how many passangers are allowed to be carried?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar) :* It is registered to carry 47 passangers.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* Are the Government aware that many more than the number allowed are accommodated in each trip?

Mr A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar) :* It may be done on some occasion.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* Not only on some occasions. Usually it is so. Are not the Government aware of this?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* No.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians Ernakulam) :* It is a pity that the Government are not aware.

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* I may say for the information of the House that some cases of overloading were detected recently and in one of the cases the person responsible was fined Rs. 50 and his licence was suspended for 3 months.

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Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians Ernakulam):* Subsequent to that did he discontinue that practice.

FOOD PROBLEMS—MEETING OF EMINENT MEN BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

81. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)* : Will Government be pleased to state whether the Director of Food Supplies gives opportunities to the Members of this House, for meeting and placing their views before the eminent men who visit our State in connection with Food Problems?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)* : Yes, as far as possible.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* When an Hon'ble Member of this House wants to meet eminent people, has that member to write and inform the Director of Food Supplies?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* When the Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudi informed the Government that he wanted to meet the Famine Commission to give evidence, he was informed of the procedure that in such cases a written Memorandum has to be sent to the Secretary to the Commission and their sanction obtained for interview in each case. The Hon'ble Member of Kunnamkulam who also wanted an interview was informed of this procedure.

SALE OF JAGGERY

82. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have issued orders prohibiting the sale of jaggery (ശർക്കരവെല്ലം) by retail or wholesale merchants in the State ;

(*b*) if answer to (a) is in the affirmative will they please state why those orders were issued and when;

(*c*) will they please state how the jaggery (ശർക്കര) in stock when orders were issued is directed to be disposed of;

(*d*) if there be no direction made will they please state how the stockists are to be indemnified by the deterioration and damage of the stocks in hand with them on the date of the order under reference?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)* :

(*a*) No such general orders have been issued. But an order was issued on 29th August 1944 to the Assistant Supply Officers to direct the merchants, under notification No. 93, dated 2nd January 1944, not to dispose of jaggery imported into the State from Madras Province. When the Madras Government without the consent of the State issued permits to private merchants to export large quantities of jaggery to the State out of the quota, it was necessary to prohibit their sale to conserve the stock for proper distribution. If large quantities were sold indiscriminately, the State would have had to face acute scarcity for jaggery after the quota was sold. To prevent such a crisis Government had to take the above steps. The Madras Government have since directed the merchants to whom permits were issued to consign the stock to the State Government in future. The jaggery already imported by private merchants in the State is being purchased by the Government.

(*b*) See answer to (*a*).

(*c*) See answer to (*a*).

(*d*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*a*).

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunuathukauv):* May I know whether the purchases are over? It is being purchased is the answer.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It is almost over.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan *(Industries and Commerce):* What was the quota of jaggery allotted for the Cochin Government by the Madras Goyernment?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* 7,000 tons.

Mr. P. P. Devassi *(Trichur-South):* Did the Government get down the whole quota allotted to it in one lot?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No. The quota was allotted in small quantities month by month and accordingly consignments were purchased and sent over to the State according to the arrangements made with the Civil Supplies Department of Madras.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan *(Industries and Commerce):* Did not the Madras Government consult the Cochin Government before issuing permits to the dealers to purchase jaggery there?

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